

Parent Forum Tuesday 9th April 2019 8am

Apologies: Wendy Grimsby, Elizabeth Bennett

Agenda

Term Dates – Could term dates for the next 18 months/2 years be distributed and uploaded to the school website?

Term dates for the next academic year are on a PDF document on the school website. Mr Dixon Gough will ask Mrs Salmon to produce the Summer Term Diary of Events as usual after Easter.

Parents Meeting – request for school update meeting. Areas to be covered – how is the school doing, vision for the school, what are the areas requiring improvement, staffing update, budget update, who are all the visitors, how can parents help realise vision, general Q and A. Request for an evening meeting to enable as many parents to attend as possible.

There is a letter coming out to parents before the Easter holidays to inform them of the current standing at Eldersfield School. The information is very positive and Mr Dixon Gough also hopes to organise a Parents Meeting to take place early in the Summer term.

Staff Training – Is this nearing completion? Will staff be back in the classroom from now on?

An intensive period of staff training has come to an end but staff development will continue, but not at the same rate.

Staffing update – will Mrs Holt be replaced in September?

Class 2 will have staff cover in September.

End of Year Production and Sports Day – will these events take place as normal?

Yes.

Gold Stars – can these be reinstated? Children no longer have anything to bring home that recognises exceptional effort/participation etc.

The children may be coming home with DoJo badges soon. The children overall have embraced the DoJo points scheme as an encouragement of their learning behaviours. Mr Dixon Gough to put another explanation of the DoJo system in the newsletter. He will also explore the possibility of putting an explanation of the system into next year's Blue Book.

Communication for school trips – telephone chain is very outdated. Could a generic text and email be sent to all?

Emails to directly communicate with parents will work IF parents sign up to Parent Pay. Parent Pay is NOT only for paying for school trips etc but is used as a direct

communication tool between school and parents. It is therefore very important for parents to sign up to Parent Pay.

PE/Sport – request for more sport/PE lessons/exercise (year 2)

PE has an allocation of 2 hours in the National Syllabus throughout Key Stages 1 and 2. Mr Dixon Gough will monitor the PE sessions.

After school clubs – will an improved timetable be running after Easter? Why have staff been reluctant to run clubs this year? How will the school maintain its record of sporting success?

The staff are under no obligation to offer their time to run after school clubs. They cannot, and will not, be forced to run after school clubs. A great deal of their time after school is put into lesson planning. Most of the local primary schools have stopped running after school clubs completely. Mr Dixon Gough has approached Direct Sports and Hartpury College but the difficulty lies in the geographical location of the school and the unwillingness of providers to travel to Eldersfield.

Multi-sports club – very positive feedback from lots of parents about Mark who has been running the KS2 multi-sports club. How can we encourage him to run another club after Easter? (In addition to request for clubs as above) Can interest in a similar KS1 club be checked again?

See points above concerning after school clubs .Unfortunately Mark is no longer available to run Multi-sports club due to his own work commitments.

Balls on the roof – is there anything that can be done to prevent so many balls being lost on the roof? If not, can they be collected back down regularly?

School cannot prevent balls being kicked/thrown onto the roof. Mr Dixon Gough will do what he can, as and when, to retrieve them.

Running track – any update?

Funds are in place and a contractor is good to go. All waiting on the local authority for planning permission regarding change of material, not change of use.

Parent Guide – will the parent forum produce this for new parents again this year?

It would be beneficial for new parents to receive the booklet in the Summer Term. Mr Dixon Gough to look through the existing handbook with a view to hi-lighting any amendments needed. Other parent forum members will also check the guide.

Residential trip – amazing experience, children all seemed to have a great time. **Thank you** to all staff involved in giving up their own time to give our children such an important experience.

Noted. Mr Dixon Gough was very impressed with the children and their effort and enthusiasm.

Outstanding Points

Online payment system –

Parent Pay is now up and running with a current 40% uptake. It is very important for parents to sign up for this – so please do. It is a communication link between school and parents, (emails etc) not simply a method of paying for trips. Mr Dixon Gough will put a reminder in the newsletter.

Email newsletter – when will this be up and running?

Would be possible if more parents signed up for Parent Pay (see above).

Communication between parents and Headteacher – more presence in playground, how is this going?

Mr Dixon Gough is on the playground or in the library every morning to greet children.

School lunches

Class Catering have increased their portion sizes since their meeting with Mr Dixon Gough.

School Council/Junior Governors Review

This has been delegated to another staff member and is still under review.

Concerns over child safety - no-one standing on gate, supply teachers handing over children to parents, sometimes no-one in library to stop children leaving the school building in the morning – This was due to be reviewed.

The matter has been mentioned to the supply teacher and Mrs Salmon is in the school library in the morning.

Open classroom – feedback? Will this become a regular event? Morning –vs- after school?

Mr Dixon Gough will welcome parents into school – he is looking to do Class Assemblies and invite parents to those plus there are plans to offer Information Meetings about methods of teaching to help with learning etc in the future.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 11th June 2019 at 8am